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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
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**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session**

## Draft report

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**Addendum**

*Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (item 5(a))*

## Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2004/05

1. At its 10th-12th meetings, from 13 to 15 June 2005, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2004/05 (E/2005/63). The Director of CEB introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

2. The report highlighted the issues addressed by CEB and its high-level committees in both the programme and management areas. On the programme side, the main focus was on organizing and coordinating the contribution of the United Nations system to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September and the preparation of a system-wide report on the overall response by the system to the Millennium Declaration. A CEB report entitled "One United Nations — catalyst for progress and change: how the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works" is expected to be launched at the 2005 session of the Economic and Social Council and presented to the General Assembly as a collective contribution of the system to the review process. Other programme issues addressed by CEB included information and communication technology, with a focus on coherence in the policy advice the system provides to countries for development and as a tool for knowledge management to improve programme delivery; the prevention and management of

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armed conflict; curbing of transnational organized crime; inter-agency collaboration against hunger as requested by the Committee; system-wide support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); and increasing the effectiveness and coherence of the United Nations system's activities at the country level. In the management area, the report presented the issues dealt with by CEB, including staff security and safety, human resources management, financial resources management and United Nations system oversight.

**Discussion**

3. Delegations noted that the annual overview report of CEB provided a comprehensive and informative overview of major developments in inter-agency cooperation within the purview of CEB during 2004 and the early part of 2005. It was also noted that the report continued the practice introduced in 2004 of including the outcome of the latest session of CEB (April 2005) to give Member States up-to-date information on work of the system. Delegations also welcomed the information provided in annexes to the report on specific accomplishments of CEB and its high-level committees in the programme and management areas.

4. Delegations welcomed the priority given by CEB to elaborating the system's collective contribution to the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration at the 2005 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly. Views were expressed encouraging CEB to develop more specific benchmarks against which the overall United Nations system efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, and the Millennium Development Goals in particular, can be assessed. This was especially relevant to efforts by organizations of the system to assist African countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

5. The importance of information and communication technology for accelerating development in developing countries was emphasized by members of the Committee. The renewed attention CEB is devoting to this issue, particularly in the context of bridging the digital divide and for enhancing inter-agency cooperation to improve programme delivery, was strongly supported by members of the Committee. CEB was encouraged to continue to give priority attention to this issue in its future work.

6. With regard to preventing and managing conflict, views were expressed in support of the growing emphasis by the system of a prevention strategy and of addressing the root causes of conflicts. Views were also expressed stressing the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to prevention and for the system's analytical work to give attention to both domestic and external factors influencing conflict. Delegations underscored the importance of harnessing the expertise and capacities that exist in the organizations of the system for conflict prevention. In developing approaches to prevent and manage conflicts, it was suggested that the United Nations system should make greater use of facilitation and mediation. Views were expressed requesting CEB to provide an update of its ongoing efforts in conflict prevention in the next annual overview report. Views were expressed that any measure taken by CEB in that regard should be in full conformity with the relevant mandates.

7. Views were also expressed reaffirming the importance of inter-agency collaboration in curbing transnational organized crime. Delegations welcomed the

progress made by CEB in ensuring a coordinated approach by the system on this issue. Some delegations invited CEB to give greater attention to illegal migration, illicit human trafficking and the recovery of illegally obtained assets by their countries of origin.

8. On inter-agency collaboration against hunger, appreciation was expressed for the information presented in the report on existing mechanisms to coordinate the fight against hunger. While appreciating the coordination that was taking place between the food agencies — the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme — members of the Committee sought information on the needs of and the obstacles and problems encountered by the mechanisms in coordinating the fight against hunger. Members of the Committee also requested information on the system in place for determining priorities in extending food aid. Delegations took note of the ongoing efforts by the food organizations in the United Nations system, as well as those of the Secretary-General, to mobilize the resources required to meet immediate needs related to feeding the world's approximately 800 million people suffering from hunger and ultimately to eradicate poverty.

9. Delegations welcomed the high priority that CEB continued to attach to ensuring effective and coordinated system-wide support for the sustainable development of Africa, particularly for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Views were expressed in support of the efforts of CEB to scale up its assistance and, in particular, of its efforts to provide policy guidance to ensure that United Nations system support for NEPAD remained responsive to the needs of Africa. Some members invited CEB to address the factors impeding a focused and coherent United Nations system approach to supporting Africa and NEPAD. Views were expressed regarding the importance of ensuring that the system's support for Africa and NEPAD takes fully into account ongoing intergovernmental processes in order to harness resources in the most productive way.

10. Delegations welcomed the importance CEB attached to increasing the effectiveness and coherence of United Nations system activities at the country level. Stressing the importance of this issue, CEB was called upon to ensure coordinated system-wide follow-up of General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development.

11. On management issues, some delegations offered a number of observations, sought clarification and requested additional information on cost-sharing arrangements for field-related staff security; inter-agency mobility and the new inter-agency mobility accord; the Senior Management Network; a uniform code of conduct for the international civil service; accountability and transparency; Joint Inspection Unit reports and the collective response of the system; information and communication technology and bridging the digital divide; implementation of results-based management in the United Nations system; the United Nations system accounting standards; the impact of the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding; and the harmonization of remuneration packages.

12. Several members of the Committee discussed the views of the executive heads of CEB on the issue of strengthening the international civil service and noted that that matter would be taken up by the General Assembly in the light of its decision 59/561 of 13 April 2005. Members pointed out that CEB was not able to

substantiate and produce arguments in support of its claim that the International Civil Service Commission should strive towards greater relevance and concrete and tangible results (E/2005/63, para. 58).

13. It was also emphasized that CEB measures aimed at enhancing inter-agency mobility should be in conformity with the regulatory framework and policies in the field of human resources management set out by the governing bodies of United Nations system organizations.

14. The ongoing efforts at the level of CEB to ensure greater coordination among the organizations of the system in implementing the recommendations of oversight bodies, was noted. Recalling the governance review requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 57/278 A of 20 December 2002 and 59/264 of 23 December 2004, views were expressed urging CEB to include information on the status of the review in its next annual report.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

15. **The Committee took note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2004/05, subject to the observations set out below.**

16. **The Committee expressed support for the high priority CEB continued to attach to ensuring effective and coordinated United Nations system support for Africa and NEPAD and requested CEB to ensure that support for NEPAD remained a priority of the United Nations system. It encouraged CEB member organizations to further align their priorities with those of NEPAD and to scale up their efforts in support of NEPAD. The Committee requested CEB to provide an update on its further efforts to ensure effective and coordinated system-wide support for NEPAD in its next annual overview report.**

17. **The Committee underscored the importance of effective coordination of system-wide efforts against hunger. It took note of the information on existing inter-agency mechanisms to coordinate the fight against hunger and poverty and recommended that CEB include in its next annual overview report information on the obstacles, problems and needs encountered by the inter-agency mechanisms. The Committee also invited CEB to continue to monitor the effective coordination of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty.**

18. **The Committee took note of the efforts of CEB to contribute to the system-wide capacity for conflict prevention, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of the CEB member organizations.**

19. **The Committee also recommended that the transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/242 of 22 December 2004, be added to the list of specific areas identified for joint work in the report.**

20. **The Committee took note of the Board's efforts to contribute to tackling the problem of transnational organized crime and its causes.**

21. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to take steps, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to improve the presentation of his report on the budgetary and financial situation**

**of organizations of the United Nations system by providing, to the extent possible, information consistently on all contributions, including on both core funding and non-core funding, as well as a clear definition of regular funding and voluntary funding.**

22. **The Committee recalled its terms of reference and its role as the main subsidiary body of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination. The Committee further recognized that it should reflect on its reporting on the CEB annual overview report to ensure that it provides inputs and recommendations that strengthen the coordination role of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee also invited the Assembly and the Council to give due consideration to its recommendations on coordination.**

23. **The Committee recognized that in its future consideration of CEB reports, it should give more attention to the programmatic aspects of the report. The Committee thus invited the CEB to expand its reporting on those aspects.**

24. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that CEB, in developing common approaches to address the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding in the various participating organizations of the CEB, continues to focus, inter alia, on measures to ensure that programme delivery corresponds to legislative mandates and that the impact on management and programmes of the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding is brought to the attention of the relevant legislative bodies.**

25. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly seek from CEB further elaboration of its view that the International Civil Service Commission should strive towards more relevant and concrete tangible results during the Assembly's consideration of the relevant agenda item.**

26. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the new inter-organizational mobility accord at its sixty-first session under the agenda item entitled "Human resources management".**